



“The View from the Forge”
A Monthly Podcast of the News & Events at Valley Forge NHP
August 2007

Hello, my name is Mike Caldwell, Superintendent of Valley Forge National Historical Park. I'd like to welcome you to “The View from the Forge” – a monthly podcast of news and events from Valley Forge National Historical Park. Here with this month's edition is park volunteer, John Grossman.

Our new cell phone tour is up and running, with new messages, new signs and a new local phone number (484) 396-1018. As you walk or ride through the park you can hear over 52 different messages about the history, landscape and wildlife in the park.

Also new this fall is the Grand Parade Trail which leads visitors through the magnificent Grand Parade. This is a 2.5 mile unpaved trail. This peaceful, secluded walk highlights the park's natural wildlife and vegetation, as well as the history of the Grand Parade. The trail starts at the mowed path across from the Welcome Center. This trail is a part of the self-guided cell phone tour. This is an experimental trail; we would love to hear what you think about it. You can leave feedback with us at the Welcome Center or you can go online to the Valley Forge website www.nps.gov/vafo and click on the link New Trail to take our online survey.

Saturday September 29th is National Public Lands Day; volunteers and visitors are invited to participate and give back by lending a hand and helping to improve and preserve public lands. Organizations, corporations and individuals are welcome to share in the experience. Visit the Welcome Center desk or the parks website for more information on how you can volunteer.

The Park's Educational Programs for the 2007/2008 school year have been released. These programs are designed for grades three through eight, but may be adapted for the upper grades. This year the park will offer the three programs:

“Riding Through History”

This two-hour program is designed to give students a hands-on history lesson by getting them out into the park to see for themselves what the winter encampment was like for Washington and the soldiers of the Continental Army. Park rangers board your bus and take you on a guided tour of Valley Forge, featuring stops at a reconstructed encampment site and a visit to the original building used by General Washington as his headquarters.

“Soldier Life”

During this one-hour program, students have the opportunity to learn about what life was like for the average soldier at Valley Forge. Through hands-on activities, students discover who the men and women of the Continental Army were, and why they joined the army. This program also emphasizes the accomplishments of the army at Valley Forge; accomplishments which enabled them to eventually win our independence.

“Ranger Mondays”

Bring Valley Forge to your school or group. On Mondays, park rangers are available to visit at your site and present a one hour program about Valley Forge. Rangers dressed as either Continental Soldiers or Regimental Camp Followers bring their *kit* with them to help bring alive the story of the brave men and women who encamped at Valley Forge. (The program is available within a 30-mile radius of the park).

For schedules and pricing information go to our website at www.nps.gov/vafo and click on the “For Teachers” link.

That’s all for this month’s “View from the Forge.” As always, for more information visit the park’s website at www.nps.gov/vafo. Please come back next month for a new edition of “View from the Forge”. This is park volunteer John Grossman. Thanks for listening and we’ll see you in the park!